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MUSTANG DAILY

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Facebook users protest new policies that changes rules about account cancellations change.

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Sophomore swimmer Peter Kline leads Cal Poly into Big West Championships.

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Volume LXXII, Number 94

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

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CENG associate dean Sullivan loses brief battle with cancer

Chris Jagger
MUSTANG DAILY

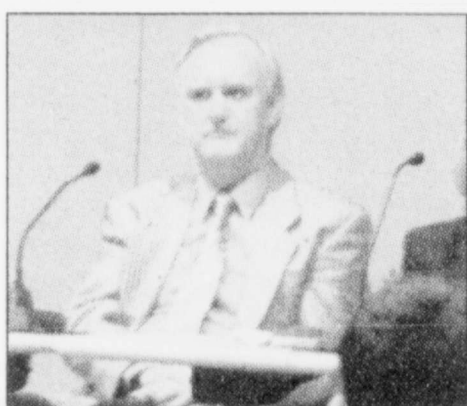
Edward Sullivan, associate dean of engineering for research and graduate programs, died Monday from complications relating to cancer. He was 64.

"Ed was an outstanding scholar, teacher and humanist," said Daniel Walsh, associate dean for the College of Engineering. "He was a calm voice at the center of every storm. He fought a very brief and unfair battle with cancer."

Sullivan came to Cal Poly in 1989. Apart from his duties as dean, he taught transportation engineering classes emphasizing traffic analysis and modeling, evaluation methods and traffic collision modeling.

"Ed Sullivan was a great member of the university community. During his long tenure at Cal Poly, he contributed so much, as a mentor, teacher, scholar and valued colleague," said Cal Poly President Warren Baker.

"He will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family."



LAUREN RABAINO MUSTANG DAILY
College of Engineering associate dean Ed Sullivan passed away Monday after a brief battle with cancer.

Sullivan received both his bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from M.I.T. and his Ph.D. in transportation engineering from UC Berkeley.

Before coming to Cal Poly, Sullivan worked as a research engineer and professor at UC Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies for 18 years. He won numerous awards for his work in transportation engineering and in 1997, he won the ASCE Urban Transportation Division's "Best Paper" award for an article he published in "Journal of

Transportation Engineering."

In 2001, Sullivan was honored with Cal Poly's Litton Award for excellence in research and development. Sullivan was again awarded "Best Paper" in 2005 by the Transportation Research Board Committee on Safety Data, Analysis and Evaluation.

"Ed was a great scholar and a true gentleman in every way," said Mohammad Noori, dean of the College of Engineering in a prepared statement. "I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Ed for over three years. Ed was a very kind person who was always willing to give his time and knowledge to help others."

Sullivan is survived by his wife, Donna and his two daughters. A memorial service in his honor will be held at the Marshall Spoo Sunset Funeral Chapel in Grover Beach Saturday, Feb. 21 at 10:00 a.m.

"Ed's departure is indeed a tragic loss to all of us who knew him," Noori said. "Although we have lost his physical presence, we did not lose him as a role model in our lives."

Obama signs huge stimulus and readies foreclosure aid

Liz Sidoti and Tom Raum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER (AP) — Racing to reverse the country's economic spiral, President Barack Obama signed the mammoth stimulus package into law Tuesday and readied a new \$50 billion foreclosure rescue for legions of Americans who are in danger of losing their homes.

There was no recovery yet for beleaguered automakers, who were back in Washington for more bailout billions. General Motors Corp. said it was closing plants, Chrysler LLC said it was cutting vehicle models and both said they were getting rid of thousands more jobs as they made their restructuring cases for \$5 billion more for Chrysler and as much as \$16.6 billion more for GM. The United Auto Workers union said it had agreed to tentative concessions that could help Detroit's struggling Big Three.

Anything but reassured, Wall Street dove ever lower. The Dow

Jones industrials fell 297.81 points, closing less than a point above their lowest level in five and a half years.

Obama focused on the \$787 billion stimulus plan, an ambitious

package of federal spending and tax cuts designed to revive the economy and save millions of jobs. Most

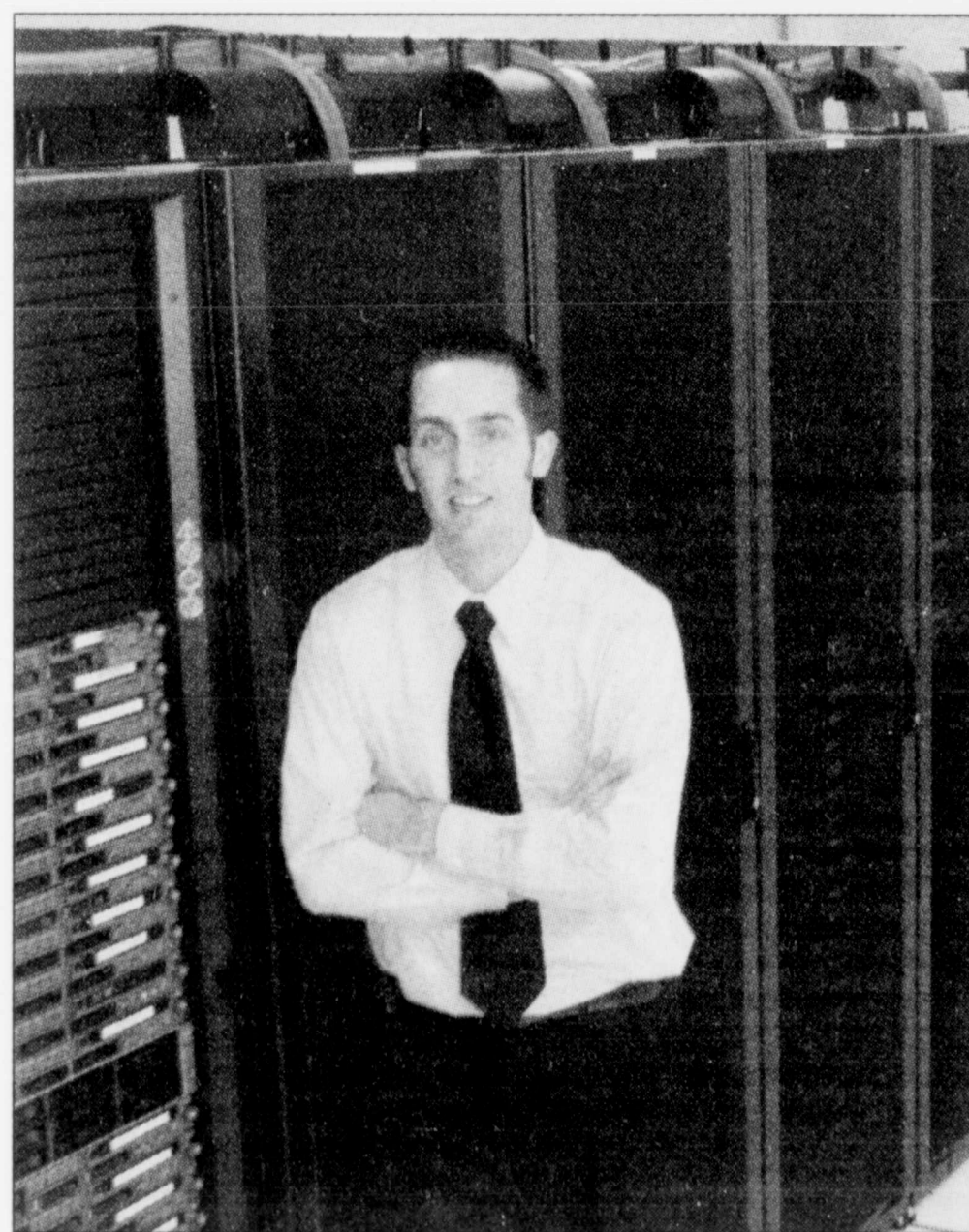
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DARIN MCGREGOR ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama, right, and Vice President Joe Biden tour the roof of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science with Blake Jones, left, CEO and president of Namaste Solar, to view the solar panel installation on Tuesday before the signing of a \$787 billion economic stimulus bill.

Two Poly grads develop U.S. government system



COURTESY PHOTO

2003 graduate Blake Edwards helped develop a new government database.

Josh Ayers
MUSTANG DAILY

Accessing government documents should now be easier thanks to the work of two Cal Poly graduates at the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington D.C.

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) unveiled its Federal Digital System (FDsys) Jan. 15, an electronic database designed to provide easier access to government documents for the general public and the more than 1,250 libraries that participate in the Federal Depository Library Program.

"We want to make it really easy for users coming to the site for the first time," said Blake Edwards, a Cal Poly graduate whose work has been key in the project.

Edwards graduated from Cal Poly's graphic communication department in 2003 and managed University Graphics Systems, an on-campus commercial printing organization that is run entirely by students.

"He was a great student, very technologically astute, very focused and (he) was very involved with UGS," said Harvey Levenson, chair of the graphic communications department. "He handled mostly very technical

kind of things; software-related, hardware-related (and) computer-related things."

Research for the FDsys started in 2003 and after technical market research, conceptualization for the FDsys (then called the Future Digital System) was underway by 2004, according to the Government Printing Office.

The project has employed about 70 people including contractors and GPO staff, and the cost has been in the neighborhood of \$20 million so far.

The site itself utilizes a standard search bar for the interface but also features an "advanced users" link that allows users to select specific databases including congressional bills, documents and hearings, a compilation of presidential documents, congressional records and reports, federal register and public and private laws.

U.S. Public Printer Robert Tapella, a 1991 Cal Poly graduate and most recent College of Liberal Arts honored alumnus, said that the current eight databases, which house more than 154,000 documents, are just a starting point and that he would eventually like to archive documents "going as

see Database, page 2

Database

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far back as the Federalist Papers."

Tapella cited a need for the new system for multiple reasons, one being a need for quick access to information. The current system being phased out is GPOAccess, which can take up to several minutes per search.

"It's a little bit antiquated," Tapella said.

The exponential growth of the use of electronic documents since the early 1990s has created a need for a system like FDsys, which is capable of delivering information in seconds rather than minutes.

"More than 90 percent of all government documents are electronic," Tapella said. "Some also have paper versions as well."

The new system is also in step with a White House that has an agenda that encourages transparency and a president that is technologically savvy.

"What's very interesting about what Blake is doing and the GPO is doing is that it's in line with the current administration," Levenson said. "Barack Obama himself is very astute, technologically astute, and he's surrounding himself with people who are technologically astute. He now has a couple of very technologically astute Cal Poly people on his side."

"It's interesting that they're transforming the Government Printing Office to be really high-tech in an administration that wants all the agencies to go high-tech."

Tapella met Edwards in January 2003 during Cal Poly's International Print Week and was dazzled with the then-seniors' potential.

"He impressed me and, so, I hired him," Tapella said.

Edwards considers the project a "great opportunity to do a public service" and he will continue to work on FDsys, which is slated to expand to more than 50 databases in the next several years.

"I couldn't have asked for anything more for a job straight out of college," Edwards said.

Bill

continued from page 1

wage-earners will soon see the first paycheck evidence of tax breaks that will total \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples.

The stimulus package was a huge victory for Obama less than one month into his presidency. But he struck a sober tone and lowered expectations for an immediate turnaround in the severe recession that is well into its second year.

"None of this will be easy," he said. "The road to recovery will not be straight. We will make progress, and there may be some slippage along the way."

Still, he declared, "We have begun the essential work of keeping the American dream alive in our time."

Underscoring energy-related investments in the new law, Obama and Vice President Joe Biden flew separately to Denver where the president signed it at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science before roughly 250 people including alternative energy business leaders. Earlier, the pair examined solar panels on the museum's roof.

On Wednesday, Obama will outline another big piece of his recovery effort — a \$50 billion plan to help stem foreclosures — in Arizona, one of the states hardest hit by the mortgage defaults that are at the center of the nation's economic woes.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner mentioned the housing program last week as he rolled out a wide-ranging financial-sector rescue plan that could send \$2 trillion coursing through the financial system. Obama is expected to detail how the administration plans to prod the mortgage industry to do more in modifying the terms of home loans so borrowers have lower monthly payments.

More than 2.3 million homeowners coast-to-coast faced foreclosure proceedings last year, an 81 percent increase from 2007. Analysts say that number could soar as high as 10 million in the coming years, depending on the severity of the recession.

In Denver, Obama said the stimulus package had received broad support in Washington and elsewhere, though Democrats pushed it to passage with only three Republican votes in the Senate and none in the House.

One of the biggest public spending programs since World War II, the new law is designed to create jobs in the short term and to boost consumer confidence to battle the worst economic crisis since the Great Depres-

sion. It also makes down payments on Obama's health care, energy and education goals.

Taking the long view, Obama cast the law as just "the beginnings of the first steps" to jerk the country out of a crisis he inherited from GOP President George W. Bush.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs, asked by reporters, would not rule out another stimulus in the future, though he said a sequel was not in the works "at this point." He added, "The president is going to do whatever he thinks is necessary to get our economy moving again."

The nation's distressed economy has dominated Obama's first weeks in office.

While laying the groundwork to address woes in the auto, financial and housing sectors, Obama spent some of his political capital lobbying hard for the stimulus package that the Democratic-controlled Congress approved last week. Obama has essentially pinned his political future on his prescriptions for the ailing economy, going so far as to raise the possibility of a one-term presidency if he fails.

There's no guarantee that Obama's enormous marshaling of resources and multi-pronged approach will stunt the economic freefall, much less produce jobs or bring prosperity. The only thing certain is that Obama is on track to boost a federal debt that stands at \$10.7 trillion.

Clearly mindful of that, Obama said: "We will need to do everything in the short term to get our economy moving again" as well as "begin restoring fiscal discipline and taming our exploding deficits over the long term."

As he spoke in Denver, General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC were racing to complete plans detailing how they would repay government loans and restructure their operations to remain viable. Detroit's third major automaker, Ford Motor Co., has not requested government help.

GM submitted a dire plan to the Treasury Department, saying it would try to borrow up to \$16.6 billion more from the government on top of the \$13.4 billion it has received. The plan includes cutting 47,000 more jobs and closing five more U.S. factories.

Chrysler said it needed \$5 billion more to survive on top of the \$4 billion in government loans it received in December. It said it would cut 3,000 jobs and three vehicle models as part of its restructuring plan.

The United Auto Workers union said it had reached a tentative deal with Chrysler, GM and Ford to modify its contracts with the automakers to help them endure.



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The Cal Poly chapter would like to encourage faculty members to nominate qualified students in their department or eligible juniors to nominate themselves.

Please contact Dr. Roya Javadpour at rjavadpo@calpoly.edu or Kendra Rowley at krowley@calpoly.edu to fill out a nomination form.

Mortar Board, a national honor society for college seniors, is beginning the competitive recruitment process for the 2009-2010 year.



WORD ON THE STREET

"Are you comfortable with Facebook retaining your information even after you delete your account?"



"No I don't think I would be comfortable with that. If you delete your account, you should be able to delete everything from their records."

- Ivan Bland,
electrical engineering graduate student

"Probably not. I have an account and I'm surprised that (Facebook) can do that. I'm not happy with them actually."

-Crystal Cush,
liberal studies junior



"They should keep (the information) on there because Facebook is a good networking tool. It would take away from the usefulness."

-Christy Claes,
animal science senior

"I don't really care. I don't put crazy stuff on Facebook. I don't put anything that's too personal on it."

-Mona Asghar,
nutrition senior



COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY CASSANDRA KEYES

Facebook rule change spark protests

Tens of thousands of Facebook users are protesting new policies that they say grant the social-networking site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

Facebook's new terms of use, updated Feb. 4, largely went unnoticed until the popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed out the changes Sunday.

That prompted a clarification from Facebook's founder, Mark Zuckerberg, although the new

terms remain in force. Zuckerberg told users in a blog post Monday that "on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with."

When someone shares a photo, a message or a status update telling friends what they are up to at the moment, they first need to grant Facebook a license so the site can pass that information along to authorized friends, Zuckerberg said. Without the license, he said, Facebook wouldn't be able to help people share information.

Zuckerberg said the new terms are necessary to reflect the fact that friends may retain a copy of that message or other information once a user shares it with them.

"Even if the person deactivates their account, their friend still has a copy of that message," Zuckerberg said. "We think this is the right way for Facebook to work, and it is consistent with how other services like e-mail work. One of the reasons we updated our terms was to make this more clear."

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February 21, 2009
8:30am- 4pm

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ASSOCIATED PRESS/BRIDGES TV

In this photo made available by Bridges TV, Muzzammil Hassan, and his wife Aasiya Hassan of Orchard Park, NY, near Buffalo, pose in an undated photo.

TV executive accused of beheading wife in New York

Carolyn Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The crime drips with brutal irony: a woman decapitated, allegedly by her estranged husband, in the offices of the television network the couple founded with the hope of countering Muslim stereotypes.

Muzzammil "Mo" Hassan is accused of beheading his wife last week, days after she filed for divorce. Authorities have not discussed the role religion or culture might have played, but the slaying gave rise to speculation that it was the sort of "honor killing" more common in countries half a world away, including the couple's native Pakistan.

Funeral services for Aasiya Hassan, 37, were Tuesday. Her 44-year-old husband is scheduled to appear for a felony hearing Wednesday.

The Hassans lived in Orchard Park — a well-off Buffalo suburb that hadn't seen a homicide since 1986 — and started Bridges TV there in 2004 with the message of developing understanding between North America and the Middle East and South Asia. The network, available across the U.S. and Canada, was believed to be the first English-language cable station aimed at the rapidly growing Muslim demographic.

Orchard Park Police Chief Andrew Benz said his officers had responded to domestic incidents involving the couple, most recently Feb. 6, the day Mo Hassan was served with the divorce papers and an order of protection.

"I've never heard him raise his voice," said Paul Moskal, who became friendly with the couple while he was chief counsel for the FBI in Buffalo.

Can all that Twitters turn to gold amid the gloom?

Michael Liedtke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter Inc. has spawned a new way to communicate by limiting messages to 140 keystrokes. So here's a way to describe the Internet's latest craze within Twitter's space restrictions:

It's a potluck of pithy self-expression simmering with whimsy, narcissism, voyeurism, hucksterism, tedium and sometimes useful information.

One vital ingredient has been missing from the mix so far — revenue. That raises questions about whether the nearly 3-year-old service can make the leap from intriguing fad to sustainable business.

Twitter intends to start testing ways to make money this spring. And co-founder Evan Williams promises it won't drive away the more than 6 million people who have set up accounts on the unconventional communications network.

"We don't see any reason why this can't be a very large and profitable entity," said Williams, the San Francisco-based company's chief executive. "We have enough traffic on our Web site that we could put ads on there and maybe we could make enough to pay our bills, but that's not the most interesting thing we can do."

Williams, 36, won't say what he has in mind besides selling ads, but he and the handful of other people who own privately held Twitter seem confident the mystery strategy will pay off — even as a devastating recession destroys much-larger companies.

Just three months ago, Twitter rejected a \$500 million takeover offer from an even bigger phenomenon, Facebook Inc., the owner of the world's largest online hangout.

Although shooing away Facebook was risky,

Twitter still isn't under immense pressure to generate revenue. The 29-employee company has already raised \$55 million, including a \$35 million round recently completed with Benchmark Capital and Institutional Venture Partners.

Like Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and other communal Web sites that have become Internet sensations, Twitter gives people a stage where they can express themselves and connect with kindred spirits.

Twitter's twist is a more succinct approach, which has been likened to the 21st-century version of a telegraph.

Here's how Twitter works: After setting up a free account, people are encouraged to post frequent updates about what they are doing, seeing and feeling. The messages, known as "tweets," must be limited to 140 characters and can be sent from a mobile phone or a computer.

Although the updates are available for anyone to see, Twitter users usually set up their accounts to monitor the tweets of people they know or admire. These "followers" are automatically fed tweets from the people they are shadowing.

With more than 265,000 people tracking his messages, President Barack Obama has the most Twitter followers even though neither he nor his staff have tweeted since he moved into the White House last month.

Many other politicians and celebrities, such as basketball star Shaquille O'Neal (more than 72,000 followers) and former rap music sensation MC Hammer (more than 55,000) regularly share tweets.

Twitter also has become a way to peek at dramas unfolding behind closed doors.

see Twitter, page 5

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Briefs

State

SACRAMENTO (AP) —

With California's major reservoirs at woefully low levels, state and federal water agencies are making a pitch to keep more water behind their dams this month.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and state Department of Water Resources say they need to store as much water as they can to ensure enough for salmon, cities and farmers later this year.

Keeping that water, though, means the agencies must be granted an emergency petition that allows weakening water-quality standards in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

...

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP)

— Lance Armstrong's time-trial bike was stolen from the Team Astana truck during the night before Stage 1 of the Tour of California.

Armstrong rode the bike to a 10th-place finish Saturday in Sacramento during the Tour prologue. The race is his first competitive appearance in his native country since the seven-time Tour de France winner began his cycling comeback last month.

Astana spokesman Philippe Maertens confirmed the theft to The Associated Press after it was reported by Armstrong himself on his Twitter feed.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Defense and congressional officials say President Barack Obama has approved an increase in U.S. forces for the flagging war in Afghanistan.

The Obama administration is expected to announce on Tuesday or Wednesday that it will send one additional Army brigade and an unknown number of Marines to Afghanistan this spring. One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the total is about 17,000 troops.

That would be the first installment on a larger influx of U.S. forces that have been widely expected this year.

...

DETROIT (AP) — General

Motors and Chrysler said Tuesday their request for federal aid ballooned to a staggering \$39 billion — only months after receiving billions in loans — in new plans that envision massive job losses and intense restructuring to survive a deepening recession.

General Motors Corp. presented a survival plan that calls for cutting a total of 47,000 jobs globally and closing five more U.S. factories, a move that represents the largest work force reduction announced by a U.S. company in the economic meltdown. Chrysler LLC said it will cut 3,000 more jobs and stop producing three vehicle models.

International

KABUL (AP) — The number

of civilians killed in Afghanistan's worsening conflict jumped 40 percent to a new high last year, and more than half of the deaths were inflicted by Taliban insurgents and other militants, the United Nations said Tuesday.

The report said insurgents increasingly use roadside bombs, car bombs and suicide bombers in attacks that are "undertaken regardless of the impact on civilians." In the latest such attack, the U.S. military reported a roadside bomb killed five civilians Monday in Kandahar province.

Two of the worst civilian tolls from insurgent attacks came in a February suicide bombing at a dog fight in Kandahar that the U.N. said killed 67 civilians and a car bombing at the Indian Embassy last July that killed 55 civilians.

...

VILLA AHUMADA, Mexcio

(AP) — For people caught inside Mexico's drug corridors, life is about keeping your head down and watching your back, especially when the sun dips behind the cactus-studded horizon.

No town knows this better than Villa Ahumada, where the entire police force quit after 70 cartel hit men roared through last spring, killing the police chief, two officers and three townspeople.



JEFF CHIU ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter founders Evan Williams, left, and Biz Stone pose for a photograph at their office in San Francisco, Thursday.

Twitter

continued from page 4

When Yahoo Inc. laid off hundreds of workers last year, some of the casualties used Twitter to provide a blow-by-blow account of their final day at the office. Surgeons at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit recently gave a rare glimpse inside an operating room by tweeting about the removal of a tumor from a patient's kidney.

Twitter also has proven to be a valuable source for breaking news, sometimes even beating long-established media outlets to the punch.

When US Airways Flight 1549 made an emergency landing on the Hudson River last month, a picture of the accident scene was quickly posted on Twitter by Janis Krums, a Sarasota, Fla., entrepreneur who was on one of the ferries that rescued passengers from the water. In November, Twitter provided harrowing, first-person accounts of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai that killed 164 people.

But Twitter mostly amplifies the humdrum of ordinary folks with apparently nothing better to do but share their monotony. There's plenty of posts along these lines: "Sitting at Corner Bakery in Frisco, Texas. Lunch was good." Or, "Another boring day at work, ugh." Or even, "I really do enjoy picking my nose." (A widely practiced pastime, based on recent tweets).

Finding out what's happening on Twitter is getting easier through a search engine called Summize that the company snapped up for an undisclosed amount last summer.

Both Williams and another Twitter founder, Biz Stone, suggested the search technology could emerge as their company's crown jewel. Its value lies in its ability to quickly sift through a steady stream of tweets to provide almost instantaneous insights about what's going on around the corner or around the world. Not even Google's Internet-leading search engine can match that now.

Stone relates how he used Twitter's search engine to ease his anxiety after he recently heard loud noises around his neighborhood. A quick search on Twitter informed him it was just a local celebration down the road.

The search engine will become

even more valuable if people keep flocking to Twitter.

The site attracted 2.7 million U.S. visitors in December, a nearly eightfold rise from the end of 2007, according to Nielsen Online. But Twitter's traffic increasingly is coming through mobile phones, making its usage more difficult to monitor. Nielsen estimates 666,000 U.S. users accessed Twitter on mobile devices in December.

The service is especially appealing to people between 18 and 34. About one in every five people with Internet access in that age group used Twitter or a similar service to update their status at least once, according to a survey of more than 2,200 adults in November and December by the Pew Internet & American Life Project. Meanwhile, usage of Twitter and rivals such as Jaiku, Pownce, FriendFeed and Plurk was seen in just 5 percent of respondents between 45 and 54. Only 2 percent of people older than 65 had tweeted, according to Pew.

This matters for Twitter's financial future because most younger people don't make a lot of money, which could make it more difficult for the company to appeal to advertisers.

Even so, corporate America is paying attention.

Several major companies, including JetBlue Airways Corp., have set up Twitter accounts to monitor what people are saying about their brands. The companies sometimes send out tweets offering to address a complaint.

All that chatter could yield a huge moneymaking opportunity if Twitter chooses to mine the data and sell the insights to marketers, said Marita Scarfi, chief operating officer for Organic Inc., an Internet advertising agency. "It could be rich vein for brand analysis," she said.

And though Twitter hasn't sold any ads yet, it is being used as a marketing tool. Computer maker Dell Inc., for instance, is offering exclusive discounts to its more than 18,000 followers on Twitter after holiday promotions broadcast on the service produced more than \$1 million in sales.

Both Williams and Stone hinted the company is exploring ways to charge for expanded commercial access to Twitter, but emphasized that all personal accounts will remain free.

Facebook

continued from page 3

Zuckerberg did acknowledge that Facebook, which boasts 175 million users around the world, still has "work to do to communicate more clearly" about how information is shared on the site.

The rapidly growing site has

had several run-ins with users over its short history.

In late 2007, for example, a tracking tool called "Beacon" caught users off-guard by broadcasting information about their shopping habits and activities at other Web sites. After initially defending the practice, Facebook ultimately allowed users to turn Beacon off.

-Associated Press

Big winter storm leaving California



MARK BOSTER ASSOCIATED PRESS/LOS ANGELES TIMES

Huy Nguyen struggles through the muddy debris during a winter storm that blanketed California with heavy rain and snow on Monday, forcing the closure of a major highway and the cancellation of the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am tournament.

A winter storm that powered its way through California was reduced to scattered showers on Tuesday, leaving behind a few mudslides and traffic snarls but no major damage.

The system was moving north-eastward, with snowfall expected to leave the inland mountain areas of Southern California by Wednesday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

The storm has dumped about 3 feet of snow at higher elevations in the mountains around Los Angeles since Sunday, and more than 2 inches of rain in Malibu since Monday.

In coastal Monterey County, mudslides closed Highway 1 for most of Tuesday morning. The closure came shortly after a flash flood warning was issued for the Big Sur area and other parts of the county. The route reopened about 11 a.m.

Numerous traffic accidents were reported on wet roads and two peo-

ple were killed in crashes in Ventura County, the California Highway Patrol reported.

A morning rock slide on a railroad track in Ventura County delayed a Metrolink commuter train nearly two hours.

In Los Angeles, a warehouse roof partially collapsed Tuesday morning. The building was flooded but nobody was hurt, said Fire Department spokeswoman d'Lisa Davies.

Downed power lines caused about 6,300 outages in Torrance, Carson, Inglewood, Agoura Hills and Long Beach, said Southern California Edison spokesman Gil Alexander.

At the height of the storm, a lone boater fell off his yacht while it was on autopilot Tuesday morning, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Stephanie Young said.

He swam through ocean water that was about 55 degrees for more than four hours to reach an

oil platform off the coast of Ventura County.

Meanwhile, forecasters issued flood advisories through Tuesday night for small creeks and streams in the Sacramento Valley as more rain moved over the area.

The rain has renewed fears of mudslides in areas ravaged by wildfires last year, but only a few minor messes occurred. In Orange County, mud flowed over sandbags and seeped into about 20 homes in Yorba Linda on Monday, and muddy runoff plagued some parts of the foothill city of Sierra Madre east of Los Angeles.

The storm came amid a dry winter in Southern California.

Downtown Los Angeles saw 1.37 inches of rain since Sunday, said Todd Hall, a forecaster with the National Weather Service.

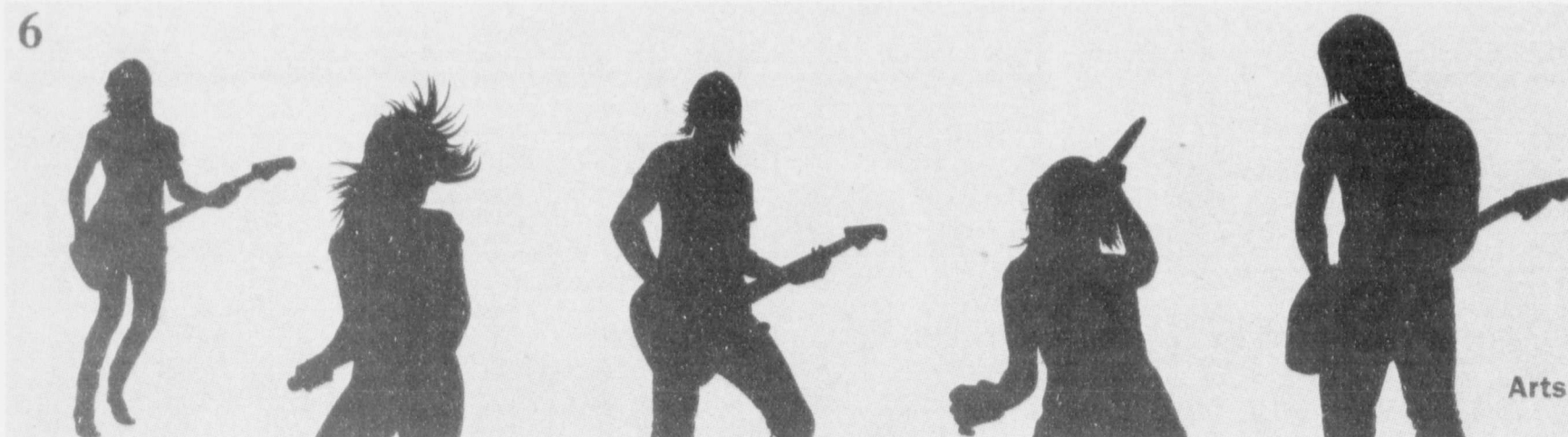
Tallying of seasonal rainfall began July 1 and since then about 8.54 inches of rain have fallen in the downtown area, leaving Los Angeles about an inch behind its annual average of 9.37 inches to date, NWS weather specialist Stuart Seto said.

Stuart Seto said the new rainfall will help restore moisture to local groundwater and crops, but the overall effect on the statewide drought will be minimal.

The storm "won't help that much because it added water to some of our local reservoir and groundwater systems, but the drinking water we depend on year round comes out of the Sierra Nevada," Seto said.

The California Department of Water Resources reported at the end of January that the Sierra snowpack was only about 61 percent of normal.

-Associated Press



a&e
arts and entertainment

Arts and Entertainment Editor: Emilie Egger
Arts and Entertainment Designer: Milena Krayzbukh

Add some eco-friendly style to the kitchen table

Chelsea Bieker

MUSTANG DAILY

Ann Christian never assumed that her hobby of making cloth napkins for her family would turn into a business. But, as she sits around the worktable with her two sisters, Dede Bruington and Kay Porczak, in their store Picking Daisies, it is clear that her hobby has grown into more than just a pastime.

Entering Picking Daisies is not unlike a vibrant painting full of life and pops of color. Everywhere you look your eyes are treated to patterns and fabrics in every shade imaginable. Squares of napkins line the walls, challenging you to pick just one.

The napkins had become so popular among friends that Christian soon found herself selling them out of her car. When production space became an issue, the store made sense.

"I could never find any napkins I liked, so I would just go buy pretty fabric and make my own," Christian said. "The business grew to the point where it was a little too cumbersome to be doing out of our houses. I thought, 'I wonder if we could sell them?' But, I didn't want to do it by myself."

All three sisters graduated from Cal Poly, and after years of living apart, they are reunited not just as sisters, but as business partners. They each bring different strengths to the table including business sense, textile knowledge and fashion-merchandising skills.

"We all have different things we are good at," Christian said. "We talked about it and we thought it would be a fun endeavor."

Located in the Creamery downtown, the shop has been open since October and offers a wide range of colors, sizes and patterns of napkins to choose from. These aren't just any napkins, however; the sisters make it their priority to use only the finest materials and intricate sewing to ensure they will withstand years of breakfasts, lunches and dinners. They almost

look too pretty to use, but Porczak encourages people to use and reuse them, as they become softer over time.

"The fabric doesn't wrinkle a whole lot and it is nice and absorbent," Christian said. "We do mitered corners which are a little bit better quality."

The process has become easier with the space allowed by the shop, and the sisters have adapted an industrious process to produce their work.

"We have streamlined it to be more of an assembly line rather than each person doing each step at a time," Christian said. "We pre-wash the fabric, then we have to iron it and roll it to prepare it for cutting."

"It's a quality product that we put out and it takes more time, but they are going to last," Porczak added.

The grids of napkins adorning the walls are not the only decorations in the store, as Picking Daisies is also a part of Art After Dark. Once a month people come in to see the featured artist, and may very well come out with a new view on napkins.

Some view cloth napkins as a great and easy way to save paper and be more environmentally conscious.

"They are thrilled that something is a catalyst to help them be a little less wasteful," Christian said.

Porczak said that with the economy people are eating at home more frequently, and the cloth napkins adhere to that trend.

"This is a simple way to spruce up your kitchen table," she said. "It's an easy way to treat yourself to make meals at home a little more elegant, a little more fun. Our timing is right on."

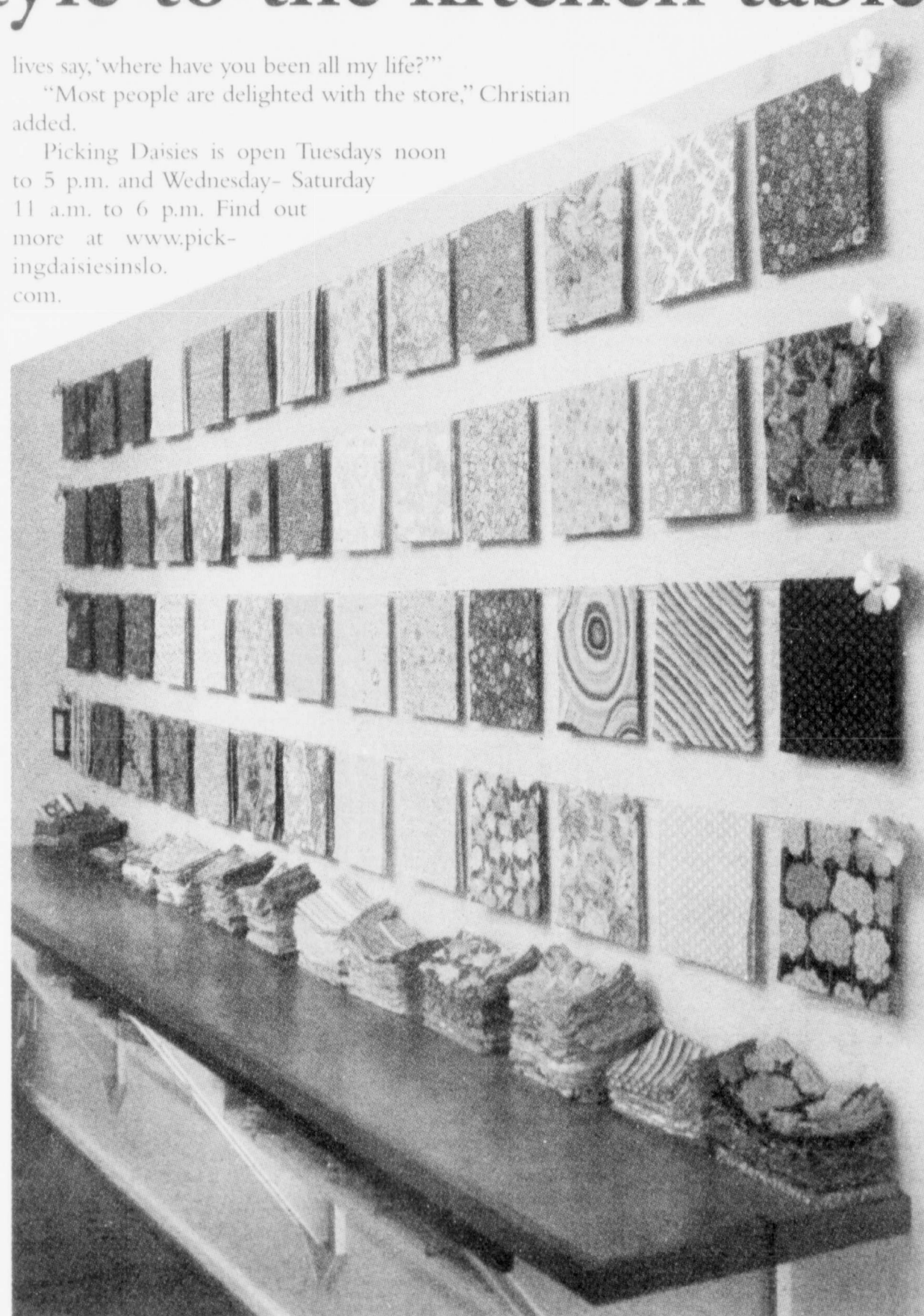
Above all, the sisters are having fun through this experience and recall that it is similar to their childhood days of playing store.

"I am having a blast; I think it has been so much fun to do this," Porczak said. "People who come in that have used cloth napkins all their

lives say, 'where have you been all my life?'"

"Most people are delighted with the store," Christian added.

Picking Daisies is open Tuesdays noon to 5 p.m. and Wednesday- Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Find out more at www.pickingdaisiesinslo.com.



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Future perfect:

NY Fashion Week goes space-age

Samantha Critchell
ASSOCIATED PRESS



NEW YORK — The present looks bleak for the fashion industry, so designers at Fashion Week have a solution: the future.

Space-age materials and clothes with jutting hips and shoulders made a Jetsons-like splash on Saturday at New York Fashion Week.

Even Barbie, celebrating her 50th birthday, got in on the act. A fashion show with 50 designs inspired by the doll closed with a series of futuristic dresses including a white Calvin Klein dress with cutout shoulders. Heidi Klum sat in the front row, looking a bit like the plastic muse.

Georges Chakra used liquidy, high-tech fabrics with sharp Jane Jetson shapes, continuing a trend seen in the early going of New York Fashion Week, while Alexander Wang went with a hard edge in an entirely black and white collection.

BCBG relied on asymmetrical necklines and shoulder pads, yes, they may be back, and put models in metallic tights, which at the right angle on their ultra-thin legs could remind an observer of C3-PO from "Star Wars."

Nicole Miller embraced a space-age look that's a little more '60s than futuristic, shown best in a black vest with an in-your-face shoulder flange worn over a slim black stretch dress. And that projecting shoulder might offset another recurring sight: peplum pants, with fabric that juts out at the hips.

Ashleigh Verrier, traditionally a feminine ladylike designer, had a harder edge with metallics and stiff ruffles, but she also gave a nod to the Valentine's Day romantic with sheer chiffon prints that allowed for very visible delicate lingerie. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt snapped her favorites with a camera from the front row.

More than 100 designers are presenting their fall collections at New York Fashion Week, which runs through Friday.

ALEXANDER WANG

Alexander Wang's downtown girl can mix and match styles, textures and shapes in the haphazard way that gives her street cred, though she also likes a little bit of luxury.

But just in case it's still not politically correct to be a showoff next fall, Wang successfully camouflaged mink- and fox-fur trim in otherwise hard-core, sleek silhouettes.

The slim leggings and biker shorts on the catwalk were often complemented by tops with silver studs or corset silhouettes, fueling the edginess, but Wang's model-friend crowd can pull off the look, and they also can wear a fitted "spongy" silk bodysuit with combat boot.

As for the rest of us, a black leather flightsuit with fox sleeves invites comparisons to King Kong.

ASHLEIGH VERRIER

Ashleigh Verrier is a girlie designer. From her long red hair to the delicate designs that have become her signature, she is making a name for herself in the fashion world as someone who embraces femininity.

Yet not even she could escape the toughness that has emerged as a trend, although she did send out on the catwalk a handful of chiffon-print looks that were sheer enough to see sophisticated-yet-sexy lingerie underneath.

There also was a noteworthy bubblegum-pink ruffled minidress and a mod red minidress with a gold circle pattern.

Verrier also routed the high-waisted, cropped-length pants that have sprouted up on other runways.

Tim Gunn, of "Project Runway" and Liz Claiborne, came to the show to support Verrier, a former student of his at Parsons School of Design. "She came up against naysayers about her vision," Gunn said, "but I advised her to follow her voice, and look at what she's achieved."

BCBG

BCBG's Max and Lubov Azria used a lot of draped

silhouettes with asymmetrical necklines and bodices, cut closer to the body than other space-age clothes seen at Fashion Week.

Some of the best looks were done in smooth, sleek satin, including a cream-colored dress with intricate cutout details and stitching and a lavender hammered satin dress that was gathered in the right places to graze the body.

The Azrias also had a new take on velvet. Instead of it being too formal or stiff, the velvet dresses in dark purple, teal and brown were sultry and seductive.

Shoulder pads, meanwhile, made a powerful statement on sheath-shape dresses, but they also lent themselves to the space-age trend.

NICOLE MILLER

Tough times call for tough clothes. Nicole Miller was one of a series of designers who, in the early going of New York Fashion Week, has shown her harder edge.

Miller's fall collection was rooted in black, but flashes, or in some cases, slashes, of metallics, purple, red and cobalt blue kept the look from being basic.

Miller did the out-of-this-world vibe best with a crisp, origami-fold blouse with a skinny black pant and black down vest with an oversized collar, and a black wool and organza vest with an in-your-face shoulder flange worn over a slim black stretch dress.

Metallics proved a strong suit, especially in Miller's use of a lacquered slinky viscose fabric. Gunmetal-colored sequins jazzed up a skirt worn with a gray techno-stretch vest.

Miller also wasn't shy to use eye-catching patent leather. It's hard to believe that this is the same designer that just a few seasons ago stood out for her lovely scarf-print dresses. Times have changed.

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BY JON MONTEITH

PRODUCED BY MUSTANG DAILY

Who will be watching "WATCHMEN?" Me!

Much of the 1980s were filled with comics that were, well, crap. Hell, the 1970s weren't that great either. A lot of them were just rehashes of old stories from the 50s and 60s that weren't that great to begin with, and really added nothing more to the table, save a few bad one-liners.

Or you had stories of old heroes battling new enemies, like teenage smoking and drinking. No joke. Just check out some old Green Lantern/Green Arrow comics.

However, along came 1986 and an entirely new era of comics, with the publication of arguably the most influential comic series ever: "The Watchmen" written by Alan Moore and drawn by Dave Gibbons.

I've read a lot of comics in my day, and to be honest with you, "The Watchmen" is not what I would classify as one of my favorite series. I appreciate what Moore did for comics, but the writing and art are still in line with an older formula of comics.

What really set "The Watchmen" apart was its story, and above all, the characters. It takes place in the mid-1980s, at the height of the Cold War, when a nuclear war seems eminent. To top it off, one of



COURTESY PHOTO

America's most famous heroes, The Comedian, has been found murdered, thrown out of his high-rise apartment building, which sets off a mystery of an elusive "masked-hero killer" on the loose. As the story unfolds it becomes clear that things are much deeper than they appear.

What Moore does best in the series is rethinking the iconic superheroes of DC and Marvel in a modern perspective, in an attempt to see what would happen to heroes in the real world.

There is the alienated detective, Rorschach, who is haunted by his

dark past. Like Batman, Rorschach has created an alternate identity to fight crime, but unlike the Dark Knight, his identity has become entirely enveloped in his alternate identity, almost to the point of compulsion and insanity.

What would happen if Captain America had not been a hero in World War II, but had instead fought in Vietnam? Would he still be the pinnacle of American patriotism? Most likely, he would be like the Comedian, a hero who faces the irrationality and brutality of human action not with revulsion or defiance, but with nonchalance or even a sense of humor.

Moore's story is innovative, but reading it can be difficult at times. It is the first of its kind in a lot of groundbreaking ways, but what really carries it along is its characters, which is well worth the effort of reading it before the new movie comes out.

I'm really looking forward to see how the new movie, coming out early next month, is going to handle "The Watchmen". At the time, the Cold War was huge, but it seems like an all too distant memory now. But hey, it looks pretty frickin' sweet, so be sure to see it on March 6.

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COMPILED BY JON MONTEITH

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February 18, 2009
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Mustang Daily

"I always felt a bond with the Ninja Turtles."

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Editor in chief: Marlice van Romburgh
Managing Editor: Giana Magnoli

mustangdaily@gmail.com

www.mustangdaily.net

9

I'm a Republican. I'm gay. So what?

I am a gay Republican. I am not "self-hating." I am not confused.

I am comfortable enough with my sexuality to think of myself in terms of traits other than simply my sexual orientation. I believe that my attraction to the same sex should have no bearing to my thoughts on tax policy, trade, foreign affairs or abortion. I believe that my sexuality is merely an incidental part of my life and should not be a major factor in my decision-making.

I am aware that there is a rich tradition of intellectualism, secularism and equality within the Republican Party outside of the Religious Right. I am aware that Hillary Clinton and Dick Cheney hold the same positions on gay rights. I am aware that Bill Clinton signed into law the last major anti-gay piece of legislation passed by Congress — the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. I am self-respecting enough to know that the words of the Democrats on gay rights are no substitute for their lack of action.

I believe that the virtues of classical liberalism — individualism, self-reliance and a rejection of cultural relativism — help gay men, just as they do all of mankind and are better exemplified by the Republican Party than by the Democratic Party. I am furthermore woefully confused by gay men's ambivalence toward radical Islam, which holds them in a particularly low esteem.

I believe that the gay subculture is destructive. I am not completely sure why a person should be "proud" of his sexuality, which is not an accomplishment. I am confused by the discord between a group of people who insist that they're just like everyone else on one hand and then on the other refuse to assimilate into mainstream society.

I am unable to relate to the faction of gay men who revolve their lives around their sexuality: their neighborhood is gay, their friends are gay, their music and movies are gay, their academic interests are gay, the stores that they frequent are gay — their lives are gay. I am not interested, though, in living my life as a gay man, but simply as a man. I envision a future in which a person's sexual orientation will be an afterthought. I do not in any way whatsoever see the Democratic Party furthering that.

I have been discriminated against more by Democrats than by Republicans. I have been shunned and mocked by Democrats, many of whom will not accept me as a gay man unless I fit into their neatly-packaged view of what a gay man is "supposed" to be. I have yet to encounter, on the other hand, a Republican who has rejected my presence in the party, shunned me on a personal level or refused to engage me on the issues.

[what others say]

select commentary from other university newspapers

I have come to understand on a very personal basis that the stereotypes and caricatures of the parties are no substitute for experiencing their members up close. I see that the "tolerance" and "compassion" of the left only extends as far as a person is willing to further their ideological worldview.

I am not Alex Knepper, the gay man. I am Alex Knepper, a man who just so happens to be gay. I believe that my chosen virtues and the actions that I take, not my un-chosen sexual orientation, defines me as a person. I am a man who chooses to think for himself and shape his life on his own terms.

I don't think that makes me so radical.

Alex Knepper is a columnist for *The Eagle* at American University, where this article was originally published.



BARRIE MAGUIRE NEWSART



I have to laugh every time I hear the word "sustainability" and the rallies and forums about the topic. Seems to me that "sustainability" is a new face being put on the time-honored subject of conservation. It is just a way for certain interest groups to catch the attention of a public that has the attention span of 2-year-olds. Conservation is more encompassing than sustainability ever will be.

As a father of 5, my kids "get it" when I teach and show them examples of conservation. Example: The other day, our upright vacuum bit the dust (no pun intended). I would say that 99 percent of this appliance was plastic. Rather than toss it into the "landfill" trash can, I disassembled the unit, separating the motors, screws and wires from the plastic. I showed my kids that the plastic could now be recycled into another vacuum cleaner!

Another thing we have taught our kids is to "recycle" their crafts projects and the scraps left over from their "creations." Old/broken plastic toys and toys with recyclable metals also go into our blue bin. Seems nowadays our blue recycle container gets more use than our "landfill" container, which is a good thing.

Are you getting my point about conservation? I am sure someone will read my commentary here and try to "educate" me. Don't waste your typing skills.

— John

Response to "Cal Poly needs to use some sustainability 'strategy'"

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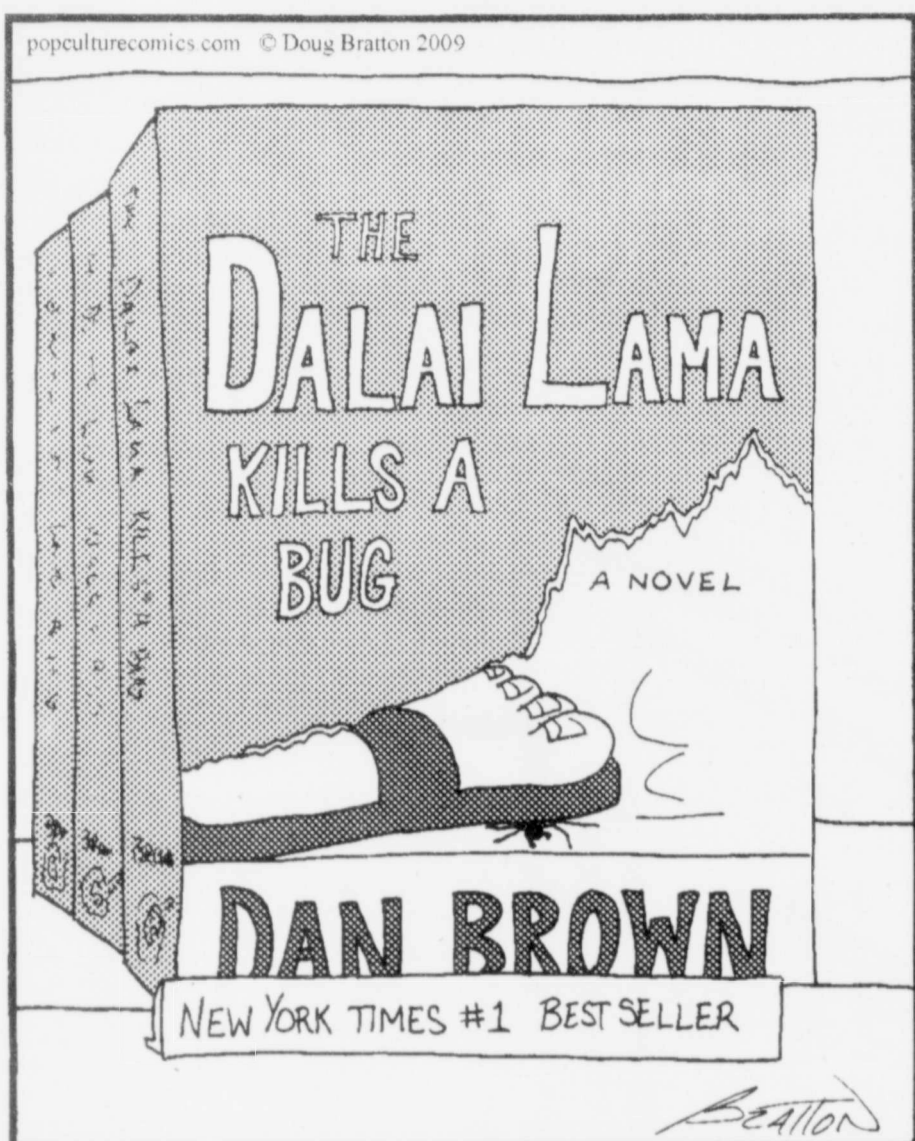
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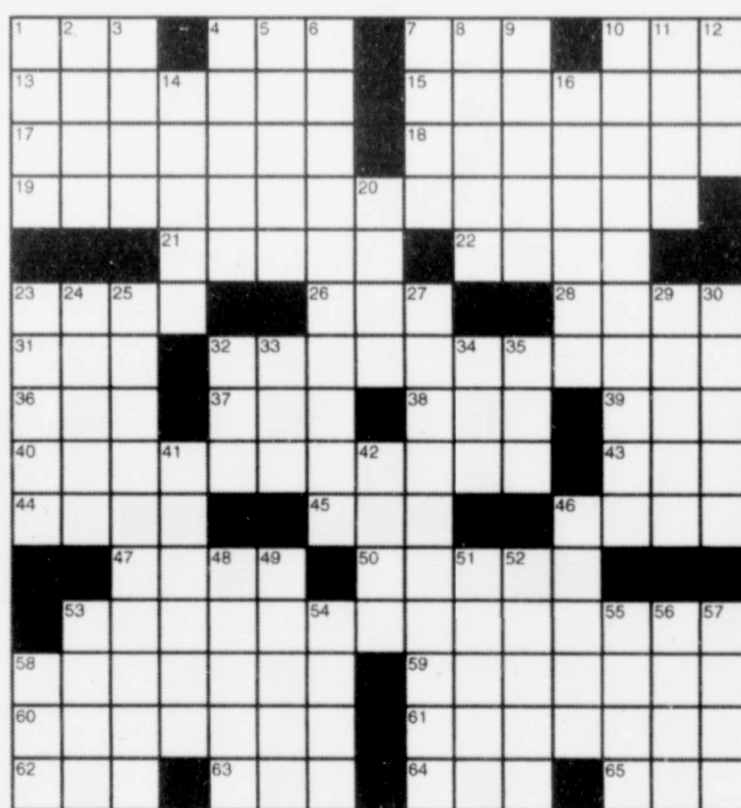
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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



- Across**
- 1 "That's ____"
 - 4 Moo ____ pork
 - 7 You don't want it beaten out of you
 - 10 A minimus is the smallest one
 - 13 Ritz-____ hotels
 - 15 Expert at interpreting a text
 - 17 It's "ascending" in a Vaughan Williams piece
 - 18 Contents of a lode
 - 19 E'er
 - 21 Justin Timberlake's former group
 - 22 Badlands sight
 - 23 "____ te llamas?" (Spanish 101 question)
 - 26 Hammarskjöld of the U.N.
 - 28 Inspiration for Hunter S. Thompson
 - 31 Egg: Prefix
 - 32 Heir
 - 36 Dudes
 - 37 Blow away
 - 38 La mer, e.g.
 - 39 Uncle of fiction
 - 40 Eyre
 - 43 "Winnie the Pooh and Tigger"
 - 44 "Beetle Bailey" dog
 - 45 Not budging
 - 46 Talks one's head off
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 - 50 Low-lying wetland
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 - 58 Zagat's readers, informally
 - 59 Ape

- Down**
- 60 Cheese for French onion soup
 - 61 It may be hidden under a shirt
 - 62 "____ Mine" (1957 hit by the Platters)
 - 63 Sault ____ Marie
 - 64 Cincinnati-to-New York dir.
 - 65 Pip at the start of "Great Expectations," e.g.



Puzzle by Oliver Hill

- 29 Bygone Apple laptop
- 30 Autos for test-driving
- 32 Hair lacking care
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- 41 Nonentity
- 42 Boxer Willard defeated by Jack Dempsey for the world heavyweight title
- 46 Isaac Bashevis Singer story "____ the Yeshiva Boy"
- 48 Off-Broadway awards
- 49 Critic Roger
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- 53 Peeved
- 54 "Gotcha"
- 55 Ace
- 56 Highest European volcano
- 57 One of two in a 47-Across
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A-Rod

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with testosterone, part of a routine called "cycling," Primabolan increases strength and adds lean muscle, but little bulk.

Maybe it was just Rodriguez's good luck that he stumbled upon it.

According to his account, he noticed few changes while taking it and none after stopping.

"I'm not sure what the benefit was," he said. "I will say this, when you take any substance or anything, especially in baseball, it's half-mental and half-physical. If you take this glass of water and you say, 'I'm going to be a better baseball player,' if you believe it, you probably will be."

"So I certainly felt more energy, but it's hard to say, hard to say," Rodriguez added, his voice trailing off. "Hard to say."

Maybe so.

But just as Rodriguez cites numbers to support his contention that two of his best seasons — 1996 and 2007 — came on either side of using "boli," it's worth examining them during those 18 months, too. Compare A-Rod's average stats from 2001-03 with the averages from the rest of his career and what you find is someone playing a dozen more games each season, with roughly a dozen more home runs and RBIs, and a slugging percentage nearly 40 points higher.

"The only thing that I ask this group today and the American people," Rodriguez said at the end

of the 35-minute, question-and-answer session, "is to judge me from this day forward."

Sad to say, but there's no chance of that happening now.

Rodriguez is hardly the only one to blame for the haphazard, piecemeal fashion in which confirmation that the era we just witnessed was supersized. He's only the latest and most credible source to be frozen in the headlights.

He may reap the reward for his honesty 15 years down the road, right about the time he becomes eligible for the Hall of Fame — assuming enough other players, general managers, owners, trainers and assorted hangers-on come clean or provide the context against which the rest of us can confidently measure their accomplishments.

For the time being, though, we continue to wrestle with the dilemma best expressed as "Who are you going to believe, me or your lying eyes?"

During one of the long pauses interspersed among his answers, A-Rod scanned the crowd of reporters, a number of whom will vote for the Hall of Fame the first time his name turns up on the ballot. He knows how Mark McGwire was rejected, how Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens are likely to be.

"I hope that after my career is over, the evidence falls in my favor. But if it doesn't," Rodriguez said, "I also understand that, too."

That better be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

—Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

Kline

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But Kline owes a lot to his busy swimming career and lifestyle to keep him focused in other areas of his life. "It's just what I'm used to. If I ever had a day off where I didn't swim, I'd get so bored," he said.

The team will return to the big pool at the Big West Championships in Long Beach from Feb. 25 through Feb. 28. Cal Poly is expected to place third or fourth place in the conference, which is a comparative leap from previous years of placing sixth and last year's fifth.

Kline is preparing to do well in the 400-meter IM and the 100-meter and 200-meter Back. "My coach will want me to get NCAA cuts, but they're pretty fast this year, which is pretty difficult," Milich recalled. "I'm definitely going to go for best times, but maybe drop two or three seconds in each event."

"Peter has a tremendous


amount of ability," Yoshida added. "He's probably one the best three male swimmers in the conference. He's capable of winning. He has the potential to be at some point, a NCAA top-16 scorer. I don't say that lightly. He does have the ability, it's just going to be a matter of how focused we can be in these next few years," Milich said.

"He's put in the work. He worked hard all summer. If he were to get it, he deserves it. He's still got

to work for it."

And what's in store for Kline when the 2012 Olympic Trials come around again?

"It depends on where I'm at by senior year," Kline said. "It's a really long shot because the national team is really hard to make, but it's something to aspire for. I'll probably be more developed, a little bit bigger by the time I'm 23, 24. So that's when my full potential for swimming would be. Prime time."




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**SATURDAY,
7PM,
MOTT GYM**



**ESPNU
BRACKET
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GAME**



**CAL POLY
BASEBALL**

**BASEBALL
HOME
OPENING
SERIES**



**FRIDAY, 6PM
SATURDAY, 1PM & 6PM
VS #3 RICE UNIVERSITY**



**SATURDAY,
11AM,
MUSTANG COURTS**



**CAL POLY
BASEBALL**



Kyle Smith
Visalia, CA

Primetime Peter Kline



KRIZIA TORRES MUSTANG DAILY

Krizia Torres
MUSTANG DAILY

With 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. swim practices six times a week, there's no time to goof around. But Cal Poly swimmer and agricultural systems management sophomore Peter Kline has made time to laugh a little.

"When Pete pulls jokes and pranks, we don't really mind because he's doing it to help the other swimmers forget about the fact that they're in pain," said Cal Poly swimming and diving assistant coach Phil Yoshida. "He's doing it to keep things lively. (He would) mix water bottles around and go under someone else's lane to blow bubbles under them while they're swimming over top; just funny stuff."

Kline has earned his time to joke a little. Now toward the end of his second season with the Cal Poly swimming and diving team, Kline has become an individual top scorer for the team and has swum against Olympic gold-medalist Michael Phelps at the 2008 Santa Clara International Meet, where he qualified for the Olympic Trials.

While Phelps placed first in the 400-meter IM, Kline came in third. "I raced against (Phelps) in my heat, which was when I got my trials cut. It was cool watching him later break all those records at the Olympics," said Kline, who races backstroke and individual medley.

But Kline is also breaking his own records. Last year he set Cal Poly records in the 100 Back at 50.05, 200-meter Back at 1:47.92 and 400-meter IM at 3:54.20. He clocked a time of 1:47.05 for the 200-meter Back finals in the 2009 Southern California Grand Prix of Swimming in Long Beach, breaking his own previous school record of 1:47.92.

American Olympic medalists and Kline's swimming heros Ryan Lochte and Matt Grevers were also at the meet, where Kline had the opportunity to race and meet them.

"It was a pretty cool meet. I remember swimming right next to Matt Grevers in his heat for four races. He wasn't pushing me, but I was trying to catch him. He probably wasn't trying at all and I was trying as hard as I could," Kline said laughing.

They're men and he's a stick. It was Lochte and Grevers on the outside and then Peter sitting right next to them," Yoshida recalled.

Lochte and Grevers are 23- and 24-years-old, respectively, and Kline is only 19.

"He's motivated, got a great work ethic, and capable of swimming really fast at practice, which translates to swimming really fast at meets," said swimming and diving head coach Tom Milich who has entered the end of his third coaching season at Cal Poly.

Kline, a Fresno native, knows his successes do not come easy. "When I'm at practice, I'm there to work. I always push myself," Kline said.

"(The idea of) what I can do inspires me to go fast in practice," he added.

Yoshida, an assistant coach since 2001, Cal Poly graduate and former swimmer, has worked with Kline for two years and has seen his potential.

"In practice, Peter is a leader," Yoshida said. "He has an easy-going way of inspiring other people to do as well. He leads by example."

"He's a likeable-enough guy that I think if he got on people he wouldn't alienate them. He's that type of guy you can take whatever from. The fact that he's inspiring you and at the same time killing himself means a whole lot too."

With 50 men and women currently on the team, tension can occasionally build.

"Sometimes we get on each other's nerves," Kline said. "But for the most part, when we're doing sprint sets and short anaerobic stuff we'll be cheering each other on. Everyone's trying to push each other. It's nice to have. It's motivating to go fast."

But Kline's interaction with his teammates does not end when he comes out of the pool. He lives in a house with four other people, two of which are also swimmers.

"I hang out with swim team people all day," he said. "Usually we have a couple guys from

a bad race," Yoshida said. "There have been points where he should've won. It's the maturity that he needs to learn how to dig down and not let that happen. He's got to lead. He's got it within him. Everyone's going to gear up for this time of year."

Kline's swimming career started when he was very young. "You know when you're young and your parents throw you into the pool? That was like my first swimming lesson right there. I had on the floaties and they threw me in," he joked.

But after a near-death experience at the age of 5, his parents decided to have him take swim lessons. "I had a pretty tragic accident when I was a kid. I got swept out into the ocean at the (Santa Cruz Beach) Boardwalk. After that, I kept swimming more and more just because my parents didn't want me to drown," he said.

Competitive swimming didn't start until Kline was 10 when he swam for Clovis Swim Club, then headed by Milich.

Kline competed at Western Zone Swimming when he was 10 and won the 200-meter Free. "It was a big meet of about 750 people. I was stoked (when I won). I set a Western Zones record. It was broken the next year, but I held it," he recalled.

A lot has changed since his early days as a swimmer.

"Pete has always been this skinny little kid and he's starting to grow up," Milich recalled. "He's starting to put on some muscle mass from being in the weight room. I used to tease him in high school and call him 'freshman' because he looked so small. I told him I'd stop calling him (that) once he qualified for Nationals, and his junior year he made Nationals so I had to stop calling him a freshman."

Kline was a Valley champion in the 200-meter IM at San Joaquin Memorial High School and set Division II records in the 200-meter IM and 500-meter Free.

One of the reasons Kline chose to swim for Cal Poly was because of his long-term swimming relationship with Milich. "Tom is a fun coach to be around. He always jokes around with you. He's a good coach. He knows what he's doing, which I like. I like his training methods too," Kline said.

Milich agreed. "He and I have a pretty good relationship and he swims really good for me. I'm pretty sarcastic. He can deal with that, rather than having someone screaming and shouting at him. I can get kids to swim pretty fast without being too verbally abusive."

When he's not working hard at swim practice, Kline likes to gain normalcy by playing video games, water polo, golf and foosball with his roommates. "We're a big foosball family house. My roommates and I have our own competitive teams. There'll be some nights where we just keep going at it and we'll have championship games," he said.

“When Pete pulls jokes and pranks, we don't really mind because he's doing it to help the other swimmers forget the fact that they're in pain.”

—Phil Yoshida
Cal Poly assistant coach

swim team over at my house throughout the day. They come over at night and we watch TV shows together like 'Nip/Tuck' and Sunday Night Football on our big plasma TV."

Rooming with other swimmers and spending endless hours at practices has worked in everyone's favor. "It creates more of a team thing. The team becomes closer," Kline said.

Kline won three races in a February dual meet against University of the Pacific, winning the 200-meter Back, the 200-meter Fly at 1:52.30, and the 200-meter IM at 1:55.33. Cal Poly won 132-130 thanks to the Mustangs "A" team's performance in the 800 Free Relay, which Kline was a part of.

"Every time we put him out, he hasn't had

see Kline, page 11

Truth, whole truth and nothing but? A-Rod 1-for-3

Jim Litke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

If the point was to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, credit Alex Rodriguez with going 1-for-3.

Just as during an interview last week, he was forthcoming about most topics in his first news conference since. Not to mention more convincing by a mile than any other active player — and most retirees, too — unlucky enough to get snared in the drug-testing net.

Unfortunately, like almost everything else A-Rod does, his answers were too clever by half.

The problem wasn't owning up to his mistake. He did that over and over.

"For a week, I've been looking for people to blame," Rodriguez said, "and I keep looking at myself at the end of the day."

He admitted injecting performance-enhancing drugs for some 18 months between 2001-03 and, without identifying him, said his supplier was a cousin who first suggested they experiment with "boli," then transported it from the Dominican Republic and became a fellow guinea pig.

But here's the part I'm having a hard time believing. Eight questions in, Rodriguez was asked if he knew he was taking steroids and whether he considered the consequences. This was his answer:

"I didn't think they were steroids. I mean, that's again part of being young and stupid. It was over-the-counter. It was pretty basic, and, you know, it was really amateur hour. I mean, it was two guys. We couldn't ask anyone. We didn't want to ask anyone. We went outside team doctors, team trainers. It was two guys doing a very amateur and immature thing."

"And we probably didn't even take it right. ... We used to do it about two times a month. I don't even know if that's proper. So when this gentleman asked me about how it affected us, I'm not sure if we even did it right to affect us in the right way. So, all these years, I never thought I did anything that was wrong. Perhaps, but not wrong, and come to find out 'boli' triggered a positive test in '03."

"Boli" is very likely street slang for Primabolan, one of two anabolic steroids (the other was testosterone) which Sports Illustrated reported were found in Rodriguez's 2003 test sample. Known by the chemical name methenolone, Primabolan is not something you would stumble on combing the shelves at GNC, trying to find a replacement for "Ripped Fuel."

It's the kind of substance very sophisticated dopers use, more expensive than most steroids and detectable for a shorter time, with fewer side effects. Taken in tandem

see A-Rod, page 11